



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

## QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WAS THE INCREASE IN MILK PRODUCTION IN FEBRUARY DUE TO MORE COWS OR GREATER PRODUCTION PER COW?
2. GIVE THE AMOUNT RECEIVED BY N. C. FARMERS IN JANUARY FROM THE SALE OF CROPS AND LIVESTOCK.
3. IS THE TRUCK CROP ACREAGE EXPECTED TO EXCEED LAST YEAR?
4. WHAT WAS THE AVERAGE RATE OF LAY PER HEN IN FEBRUARY?
5. HOW MANY SHEEP WERE REPORTED ON FARMS ON JANUARY 1, 1949?
6. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED CORN ACREAGE IN 1949?
7. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED TOBACCO ACREAGE IN 1949?
8. WHAT IS THE EXPECTED PEANUT ACREAGE IN 1949?

No. 33

RALEIGH, N. C.

MARCH 15, 1949

## MARCH 1, 1949 GENERAL FARM REPORT

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1949, PAGES 3 AND 4

## 1949 CROP PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Following one of the mildest winters of record, Tar Heel farmers are entering the 1949 crop year with current prospects pointing to another prosperous season from the standpoint of crop production. FARMERS' REPORTED INTENTIONS TO PLANT indicate that larger acreages of most small grain crops and tobacco are in prospect. Intentions expressed by growers point to lower acreages of all other principal crops surveyed at this time. Congressional law prohibits information on intentions to plant cotton. Prospective cotton acreage will not be available until July. Indications are that the 1949 tobacco acreage will follow quite closely acreage allotments, which were increased 5 percent this year. The acreage of small grains will be increased considerably above 1948, or more in line with the "normal" acreage devoted to such crops. The poor planting season in the fall of 1947 was primarily responsible for the decreased small grain acreage last year.

The acreage seeded to corn is expected to be about 4 percent below that planted in 1948. Farmers also report intentions to plant smaller acreages of soybeans, cowpeas and peanuts alone for all purposes. The total acreage of all hay will be slightly less than last year due to decreases in acreages planted to annual legume crops.

Most farmers seeded their small grain crops under generally favorable conditions. Unseasonably warm weather accompanied by adequate rain promoted rapid germination and growth. As a consequence, small grain crops are considerably ahead of normal seasonal development. Conditions have been unusually favorable for preparing seed beds for spring planted crops and farmers have this job well in hand. Unless abnormally late freezes or excessive rainfall occur, North Carolina farmers should complete their spring planting in record time. Most tobacco beds have been sown. Plants have made rapid development with growth from ten days to two weeks ahead of normal. Unless unseasonably cold weather is received, good tobacco plants should be plentiful and available for early transplanting.

## CASH FARM RECEIPTS INCREASE

Cash receipts from farm marketings by North Carolina farmers amounted to slightly over 28 million dollars during January. Of the 28 million dollars, receipts from the sale of crops totaled about 20 million and livestock and livestock products slightly over 8 million.

Total cash receipts last January exceeded January of 1947 by \$140,000. The net increase of \$140,000 resulted from an increase of \$891,000 in crop sales and a decrease of \$751,000 in livestock and livestock products sales. The increase in Crop sales during January of this year is accounted for primarily by increased marketings of cotton and corn.

## TRUCK CROP ACREAGE INCREASES

Lettuce acreage in North Carolina this year is estimated at 1,400 acres, comparing with 1,300 acres planted in 1948. The strawberry acreage is expected to be 2,400 acres, 4 percent above last year. Watermelon growers intend to plant about 11,500 acres, 1,500 acres above 1948.

## MILK PRODUCTION SETS RECORD

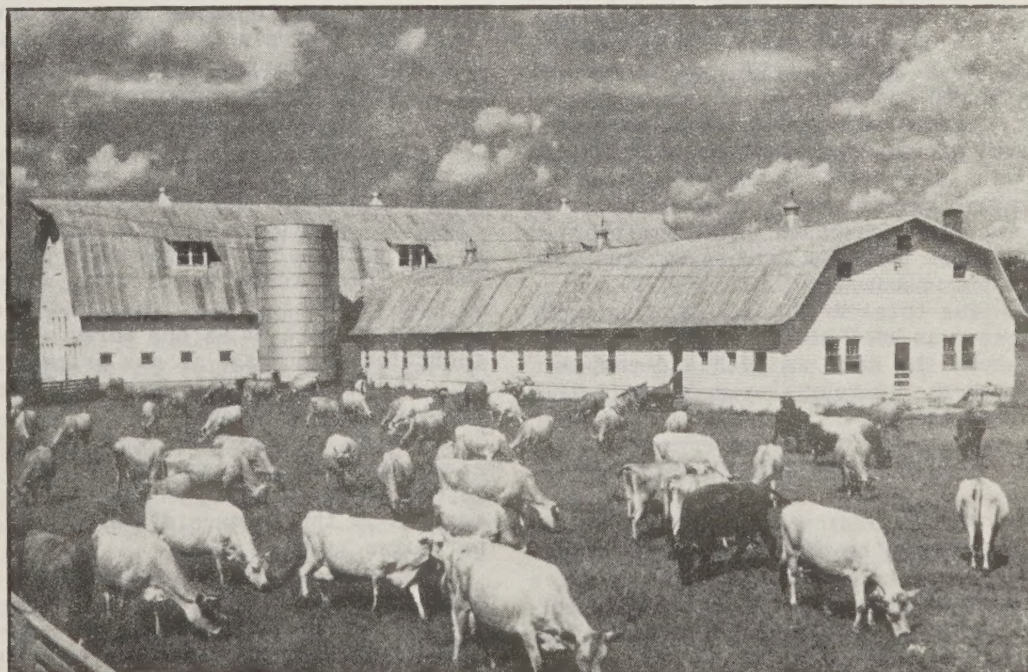
Milk production on farms in North Carolina during February was estimated at 111 million pounds which is the highest of record for the month. Production during the month compares with 102 million pounds produced during February of last year and 115 million pounds produced during January of this year. The 10-year (1938-47) average for February is 96 million pounds.

Production per cow in herds during February averaged 315 pounds, compared with 286 pounds during February of 1947 and 325 pounds during January of this year.

There were 353 thousand milk cows on farms in February, the same as in January, but 5 thousand less than in February a year ago. This is the lowest number of milk cows on farms for any month since April 1942.

Total milk production on farms in the United States during February was 8,276 million pounds, comparing with 8,671 million pounds during January, 8,126 million pounds during February of last year and the 10-year average (1938-47) average of 8,043 million pounds for February.

## NORTH CAROLINAS GREAT OPPORTUNITY





## MARCH INTENTION'S REPORT

The purpose of this report is to assist growers generally in making such further changes in their acreage plans as may appear desirable. The acreages actually planted in 1949 may turn out to be larger or smaller than indicated, by reason of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions, the agricultural program, and the effect of this report itself upon farmers' 1949 crop plans.

The acreages shown for 1949 are interpretations of reports from growers in all parts of the country on March 1 and are based on past relationships between such reports and acreages actually planted.

### SMALLER CORN ACREAGE EXPECTED

A summary of reports from farmers indicate they expect to plant 2,158,000 acres of corn this year. This will be 4 percent below the acreage planted to corn in 1948 and 8 percent below the 10-year average.

Several factors are probably responsible for the decision of Tar Heel farmers to reduce the acreage of corn during the coming year. Some of the more important factors are (1) the record production of 69 million bushels of corn in 1948; (2) lower feed and grain prices in general; (3) favorable fall for seeding small grains; and (4) inadequate storage facilities for crop as large as 1948 production.

U. S. farmers have indicated they will plant 84.8 million acres of corn this spring. This compares with 86.2 million acres planted in 1948 and the 10-year average of 90.6 million acres.

### 1949 OATS CROP ABOVE 1948

If farmers' intentions, as of March 1, are realized a total of 449,000 acres will be planted to oats during the 1948-49 season. This is 93,000 or 26 percent more than the acreage planted in oats last year. It is also 15 percent above the 10-year average of 391,000 acres.

Unfavorable weather last year prevented many farmers from seeding oats and as a result much less than the usual acreage was available for grain and other purposes. The anticipated acreage for 1949 is more in line with normal seedings.

The total U. S. oats crop is indicated as 44.5 million acres, which is about the same as 1948 and compares with the 10-year average of 42.4 million acres.

### PROSPECTIVE BARLEY CROP UP

Present indications are that 43,000 acres will be devoted to barley this year, as compared with 41,000 acres planted last year. The 1949 prospective barley crop compares with the 10-year average of 40,000 acres.

The total U. S. barley acreage is

indicated as 10.6 percent less than 1948. The 11.9 million acres indicated for 1949 compares with the 10-year average of 14.6 million acres.

### Smallest Hay Acreage Since 1942 Anticipated For 1949

North Carolina's total hay acreage for 1949 is expected to be about 25,000 acres less than in 1948. Although some increases are anticipated for some hay crops, the principal decrease in 1949 hay acreage is expected to occur in the heavy peanut producing belt. Utilization of peanut vines for hay will be sharply curtailed this year since the commercial peanut acreage will be reduced considerably under the renewed production control program for this crop. If the March intentions for 1949 acreages of all hays is realized, this will be the smallest hay acreage since 1942.

Reports from thousands of hay growers throughout the United States at the beginning of March indicate that around 73,718,000 acres of hay may be harvested in 1949. Such an acreage would be only slightly more than was harvested in 1948.

### SWEETPOTATOES LOWEST SINCE 1874

If farmers carry out their intentions as of March 1, there will be 47,000 acres of sweetpotatoes planted in the state this year, comparing with 49,000 harvested last year, and the 10-year average of 73,000 acres. The trend in acreage during recent years has been downward, with each successive year's acreage since 1943 showing a substantial drop. This year's prospective acreage is the lowest for the crop since 1874.

For the United States a reduction in acreage for the third consecutive year is indicated by reports on intended plantings submitted by growers about March 1. The prospective planted acreage of 488,600 acres is 6 percent less than 1948 planted acreage and 32 percent below the 1938-47 average.

### POTATO ACREAGE DOWN

Early reports from potato producing areas throughout the state show that growers' intend to plant a total of 64,000 acres of Irish potatoes this year. This acreage compares with 71,000 harvested last year and the 1938-47 average of 83,000 acres. The reduction in acreage is due primarily to a cut of 24.4 percent in the commercial acreage allotment.

Growers in the "commercial early" areas currently expect to plant 26,000 acres of potatoes. During 1948 farmers in the commercial early areas harvested 31,000 acres.

The smallest potato acreage in almost three score and ten years is indicated for the United States by growers' intentions-to-plant reports. The 1,980,000 acres indicated for 1949 is

7 percent smaller than the acreage planted in 1948 and 29 percent smaller than the 1938-47 average. The indicated acreage is 2 percent larger than the Department's previously announced goal of 1,938,300 acres.

### TOBACCO ACREAGE TO INCREASE

North Carolina farmers report intentions to plant 634,300 acres of tobacco during 1949. If these intentions are carried out the 1949 acreage will be about 5 percent greater than the acreage harvested last year. The 10-year average acreage of all tobacco is 663,140 acres. If average yields per acre of all types should equal the 5-year 1943-47 average yields, about 692 million pounds of tobacco would be produced in North Carolina on the prospective 634,300 acres. The acreage of all flue-cured types is expected to total 624,000 acres, compared with 594,000 acres harvested last year, and the average of 654,200 acres. If the 1943-47 average yield should be realized, production of about 678 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco would be expected.

Producers of Type 11 are planning to set 245,000 acres in tobacco this season - an increase of 5 percent over the acreage harvested in 1948. Growers of Type 12 report intentions to make a similar expansion which will increase the amount of land devoted to this type tobacco from 290,000 acres in 1948 to 304,000 acres this year. Growers of Type 13 report intentions to plant 75,000 acres - 6 percent above the acreage last year. A 3 percent increase in the acreage of Burley tobacco is expected.

Weather conditions to date have been very favorable for the development of tobacco plants. Reports from growers indicate that tobacco plants are from ten days to two weeks ahead of normal seasonal development. Recent freezes have "nipped" tobacco plants in some beds, but not to the extent of causing any serious loss of plants. Thus, if weather conditions follow the normal pattern until transplanting time, well developed plants should be in plentiful supply.

### U. S. ACREAGE UP 4 PERCENT

For the United States a total of 1,596,000 acres of tobacco for 1949 is indicated by reports of farmers' intentions as of March 1. This is an increase of about 4 percent above last year's acreage. The total flue-cured acreage is indicated at 932,000 acres, an increase of 6 percent over 1948. This is being made possible by an increase in the allotments to flue-cured growers. The indicated 434,000 acres of burley tobacco is 4 percent above the acreage in 1948. Most growers are planning to plant as near their allotted acreage as conditions will permit.



## SMALLER SOYBEAN ACREAGE

The 1949 prospective acreage for soybeans grown alone for all purposes in North Carolina, at 353,000 acres will be the second smallest crop since 1939. The lowest acreage for this period was the 342,000 acres of 1946. If plantings for the 1949 crop materialize, such a crop will be about 8 percent less than the 384,000 acres planted in 1948 and 9 percent under the ten-year average. Most of the decline in 1949 is expected to occur in the utilization of alone acreage for hay, forage and soil improvement purposes rather than in bean production.

As of March 1, growers throughout the United States expressed intentions to plant 11,278,000 acres of soybeans grown alone for all purposes. This prospective acreage would be 3.9 percent less than the acreage planted in 1948 and the lowest since 1941.

Prospective Peanut Acreage  
Lowest Since 1941

Based on growers March intentions to plant peanuts alone for all purposes, plantings for 1949 will amount to around 259,000 acres. If these intentions are realized the 1949 crop will be the smallest since 1941 and about 15 percent less than the alone acreage planted in 1948. This sharp reduction in acreage is due almost entirely to the renewal of production control quotas for peanuts, the first time such controls have been in effect since 1942.

The total United States acreage of peanuts to be planted alone for all purposes in 1949 is indicated at 3,175,000 acres, according to grower's planting intentions as of March 1. This would be 18 percent below 1948 plantings, 8 percent under the 10-year average and the smallest crop since 1941. If the usual relationship be-

tween acreages planted alone for all purposes and those picked and threshed prevail in 1949, about 2,585,000 acres would be utilized for picking and threshing - 1.7 percent less than the national allotment of 2,628,700 acres.

## SORGHUM ACREAGE SAME AS 1948

North Carolina farmers have indicated they will plant 45,000 acres of sorghums for all purposes, or the same acreage which was planted last year. The average acreage of sorghums for all purposes is 27,000 acres.

If U. S. farmers carry out their March intentions they will plant 12.1 million acres of sorghums for all purposes. This is 87.9 percent of the acreage planted in 1948 and compares with the average of 16.8 million acres.

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTING FOR 1949

	NORTH CAROLINA					UNIT OF YIELD	UNITED STATES				
	AVERAGE 1938-1947		ACREAGE PLANTED				AVERAGE 1938-1947		ACREAGE PLANTED		
	ACREAGE PLANTED	YIELD PER PLANTED ACRE	1948	INDICATED 1949	1949 % OF 1948		ACREAGE PLANTED	YIELD PER PLANTED ACRE	1948	INDICATED 1949	1949 % OF 1948
	(000)		(000)	(000)	%		(000)		(000)	(000)	%
CORN, ALL.....	2,345	22.8	2,248	2,158	96	BU.	90,590	30.8	86,196	84,809	98.4
OATS.....	391	20.8	356	449	126	BU.	42,378	29.0	44,529	44,506	99.9
BARLEY.....	40	19.5	41	43	105	BU.	14,607	21.0	13,295	11,885	89.4
ALL HAY*	1,215	.99	1,230	1,205	98	TON	73,966	1.34	73,616	73,718	100.1
SWEET POTATOES.....	73	106.0	49	47	96	BU.	717.3	88.9	518.9	488.6	94.2
POTATOES.....	83	110.0	71	64	90	BU.	2,798.7	142.1	2,127.3	1,980.0	93.1
TOBACCO*											
TYPE 11.....	255.7	954.0	233	245	105	LBS.	354.4	957.0	320.0	339.0	106.0
TYPE 12.....	323.0	1,067.0	290	304	105	LBS.	323.0	1,067.0	290.0	304.0	105.0
TYPE 13.....	75.5	1,058.0	71	75	106	LBS.	187.4	1,044.0	174.0	184.0	106.0
ALL FLUE CURED*.....	654.2	1,022.0	594	624	105	LBS.	971.9	1,011.0	882.8	931.7	106.0
TYPE 31 (BURLEY).....	8.9	1,240.0	10	10.3	103	LBS.	419.5	1,050.0	417.4	434.4	104.0
ALL TOBACCO*.....	663.1	1,025.0	604	634.3	105	LBS.	1,653.5	1,033.0	1,537.7	1,596.3	103.8
SOYBEANS**.....	376.0	-	384	353.0	92	-	11,607.0	-	11,733.0	11,278.0	96.1
COWPEAS**.....	132.0	-	55	50.0	91	-	2,459.0	-	1,115.0	1,011.0	90.7
PEANUTS**.....	291.0	-	305	259.0	85	-	3,466.0	-	3,879.0	3,175.0	81.9
SORGHUMS, ALL PURPOSE..	27.0	-	45	45.0	100	-	16,810.0	-	13,813.0	12,144.0	87.9

\* Acreage harvested.

\*\* Grown alone for all purposes -- partly duplicated in hay acreage.

## RECORD OUTPUT OF CHICKS

Output of chicks from North Carolina hatcheries moved to a new high during February. Hatchings for that month totaled 5,653,000 chicks, and increase of 43 percent from the 3,945,000 chicks hatched in January, and were 60 percent greater than for February a year ago. Hatchings for February this year were 30 percent above the five-year (1943-47) average.

Hatchery output during the first two months of 1949 totaled 9,598,000 chicks -- 78 percent more than for the same months in 1948. The demand for chicks for commercial broiler production and for general farm flock replacements continues good.

Average prices received per 100 chicks by North Carolina hatcheries, on March 1, showed no increases from a month earlier. Prices received for straight-run and sexed pullets of

heavy breeds remained the same, with sexed cockerels for this group averaging \$13.00, down 50 cents per hundred from February. Straight run chicks of light breeds averaged \$15.00 per hundred or \$1.00 less than a month earlier. Sexed pullets of light breeds at \$30.00 per hundred was the same as February.

The number of chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries in the United States during February was the largest of record for that month. The total output of chicks during February was estimated at 144,244,000 chicks - 47 percent above the output during February last year and 17 percent above the February 1943-47 average. The demand for chicks for commercial broiler production and for general flock replacement is good. Placements of chicks during February in the 7 commercial broiler areas for which records are available were at record

levels. Approximately 26 million chicks were started in these 7 areas during February as compared with 17.5 million in February 1948 - an increase of 48 percent.

A relatively large hatch can be expected during March because the number of eggs in incubators on March 1 was 27 percent larger than on March 1 a year ago. The number of chicks booked on March 1 for April delivery was 33 percent larger than the number booked on March 1 last year. Approximately 75 million, or 50 percent more, chicks were hatched during the first two months of 1949 than were hatched during the same period last year.

## FOUR-FIFTHS OF WHEAT PROCURED

About 89 million bushels of wheat still need to be procured if 1948-49 exports are to reach 500 million bushels.



# FARM REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Raleigh, N. C.

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MARCH 1949

FARM REPORT

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## EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

Layers on North Carolina farms produced 88 million eggs during February. This compares with a production of 69 million eggs in January this year and 73 million eggs in February a year ago. February was the third consecutive month showing seasonal increases in egg production. The seasonal increase in production usually begins in December and continues for the first four months of the new year, with the sharpest increases developing in February, March and April.

Total layers on farms during February was slightly less than for the preceding month - or 7,723,000 compared with 7,725,000 for January - but was 3 percent greater than for February, 1948.

Production per layer during the month averaged 11.45 eggs - the highest average rate of lay of record for February - and compares with 9.77 eggs per layer during February, 1948. The high rate of lay per bird was the principal cause for the record February production realized this year.

## RECEIPTS FROM WOOL DOWN

Total cash receipts from the sale of wool amounted to \$83,000 in North Carolina during 1948. This is 2.4 percent less than the receipts from wool in 1947. The average price per pound increased from 47 cents in 1947 to 49 cents in 1948. Production of wool totaled 170,000 pounds in 1948, an average of 5.3 pounds per sheep shorn. It is estimated that 32,000 sheep were shorn last year compared with 34,000 in 1947. The number of sheep in North Carolina has declined from 580,000 in the 1880's to 35,000 on January 1, 1949.

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DECLINES

Commercial slaughter, including slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter but excluding farm slaughter, in the State during January was lower in numbers for all types of meat animals

than in January of 1948. Total live weight of animals slaughtered during January was lower for all types except calves, compared with the corresponding month of last year.

Commercial meat production in the United States during January 1949 totaled 1,863 million pounds. Production was down 6 percent from the 1,982 million pounds produced during December, 1948, and was 5 percent below the 1,962 million pounds produced during January 1948.

## JANUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER\*

TYPE	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE..	11.2	8.2	8,638	6,542	1,836.0	1,569.2	1,666,007	1,477,697
CALVES..	8.3	7.7	1,180	1,490	988.2	833.3	194,217	167,489
SHEEP & LAMBS...	.3	.1	30	9	1,468.2	1,343.0	141,596	129,172
HOGS....	34.0	30.0	7,242	6,618	6,615.6	6,571.5	1,627,097	1,632,631

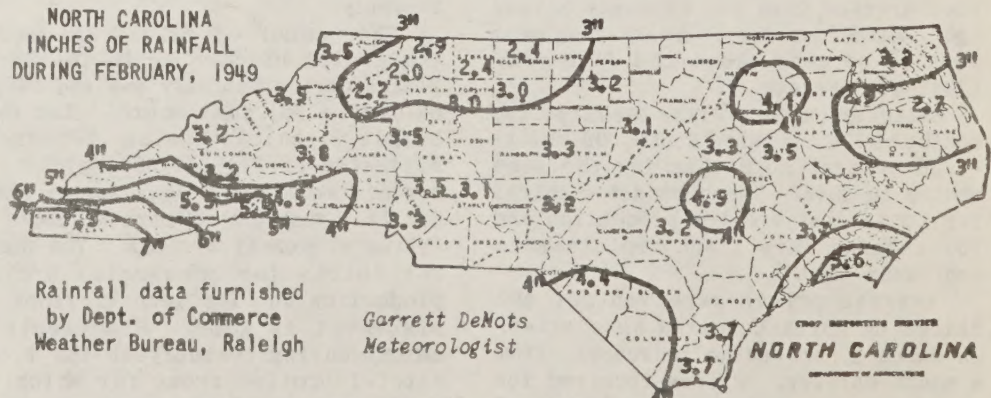
\* Include slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; exclude farm slaughter.

## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 1949

February 1949 was unusually warm. In fact, the average temperature was one of the four or five highest on record. One of the extraordinary features was the fact that the morning low temperatures were unseasonably high throughout the month. In some southern and eastern sections, the temperature did not go below freezing at all.

Precipitation was generally below normal. However, it occurred with such regularity throughout the month that the total amount was ample. Another unusual feature of the weather was that very little or no snow fell during the month. Of course, in the eastern part of the state, snow is hardly expected, but in the western part, the lack of it during February is rather unusual.

NORTH CAROLINA  
INCHES OF RAINFALL  
DURING FEBRUARY, 1949



Rainfall data furnished  
by Dept. of Commerce  
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Garrett DeMots  
Meteorologist

CROP REPORTING SERVICE  
NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE